

2017 Rhode Island Small Business Awards



**Small Business
Awards
Class of 2017**

Small Business Person of the Year

Gary Palardy,
President/CEO of
Blue Moon Industries
(Providence)



Rhode Island & New England Microenterprise of the Year

Ann Kaiser,
CEO of
ProjectEngin, LLC
(Barrington)

Entrepreneurial Success Award

Jeffrey Nelson,
President/Owner of
Brassworks
Fine Home Details
(Providence)



Small Business Exporter of the Year

Kevin Redmond, CEO;
Joan Redmond, Controller;
Peter Kaczmarek,
President/COO; of
Mearthane Products
Corporation, Inc.
(Cranston)



Financial Services Champion

Laura A. Stack,
Vice President & Senior
Commercial Lender for
Freedom National Bank
(Smithfield)





Home-Based Small Business of the Year

Rachyl Medina Travis,
Jaklyn Travis Randall, and
Lillian Median Travis,
Owners of
The Travis Family Farm
(Scituate)

Jeffrey Butland

Family-Owned Small Business of the Year

Roberta A Degraide,
President;
Denise Armstrong-
Florio, Vice President of
Design Fabricators, Inc.
(Cranston)



Joseph G. E. Knight Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence

Susan Lataille,
Owner of
DiscoverYou Events
(North Smithfield)

**Minority-Owned
Small Business of the Year**

Armando Nieves,
President of
Armando & Sons Meat
Market Group
(Providence & Pawtucket)



**Veteran-Owned
Small Business of the Year**

Matthew Tortora,
CEO & Co-Founder of
Crave Food Services
Corporation
(North Kingstown)



**Woman-Owned
Small Business of the Year**

Kelly Mendell,
President of MIKEL, Inc.
(Middletown)





Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Aaron Jay Horowitz,
President/CEO of
Sproutel Inc.
(Providence)

District Director Award

Mark Cousineau,
President of
Community Investment
Corporation
(Accepting of behalf of
Cousineau is Buck Harris)



Photographed with Small Business Award winners are the Chairman of Rhode Island SCORE, Ed Gromada; Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Daniel J. McKee; Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the Honorable Nicholas A. Mattiello; and SBA Regional Administrator (A) and Rhode Island District Director, Mark S. Hayward.